

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the detailed examination evidenced by the Office Action, and the withdrawal of the prior rejections based on Berard, Grigonis, and Lou. Applicant has carefully examined the presently cited references and submits that many recitations of the independent claims and many of the dependent claims are not disclosed therein. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections in view of the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Independent Claims 6 and 16 and dependent Claims 2-4, 7, 13-14, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0001223 to Tanaka (hereinafter "Tanaka"). Claims 5 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0083273 to Madison (hereinafter "Madison"). Claims 8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0161080 to Digate (hereinafter "Digate"). Claims 9-10 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 6,906,817 to Berard (hereinafter "Berard"). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Berard in view of Tanaka and Madison.

Independent Claims 6 and 16 are Patentable Over Tanaka

Independent Claim 6 recites:

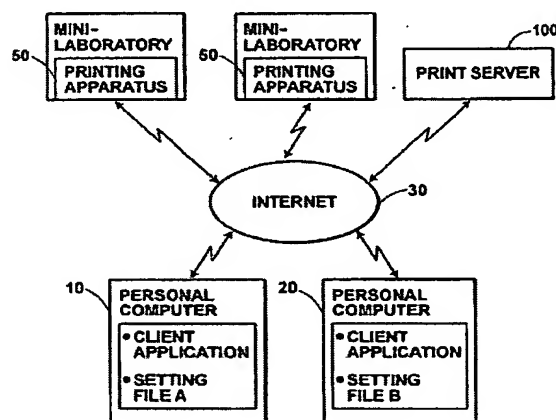
6. A method of routing print files in a computer system, the method comprising:
evaluating content of at least one print file based on a routing policy, wherein the print file is configured by an application for printing on a printer device; and selectively routing the print file based on the evaluated content of the at least one print file to a non-printer device instead of to a printer device in response to the evaluated content of the print file.

Accordingly, Claim 6 recites that the file whose content is evaluated based on a routing policy is a *print file* that is configured by an application for printing on a printer

device. Furthermore, the *print file* is selectively routed to a non-printer device instead of to a printer device *in response to the evaluation of the content of the print file*.

Tanaka describes a personal computer (10) that has a client application and a separate setting file (A), and another personal computer (20) that has a client application and a separate setting file (B), as shown in FIG. 1 of Tanaka below.

FIG. 1 of Tanaka



The client applications and setting files (A), (B) are installed in the personal computer (10) from media "distributed as supplements of magazines A and B." (Tanaka, Para. 39).

Tanaka describes the setting files (A),(B) as follows:

The setting files A and B attached to the client applications respectively have information representing the name of the corresponding magazine as a distribution route, the name of a privilege service available to the client application, and an effective time period of the privilege service." (Tanaka, Para. 39).

Accordingly, the setting files (A),(B) identify from what magazine a client obtained the files (e.g., "distribution route" can be "magazine A" or "magazine B"), the type of service available to the client (e.g., "privilege service" can be the number of free print outs available), and an expiration date for the service. Tanaka illustrates the printing process by the personal computers (10),(20) and print server (100) in FIGS. 4 and 5, below.

FIG. 4 of Tanaka

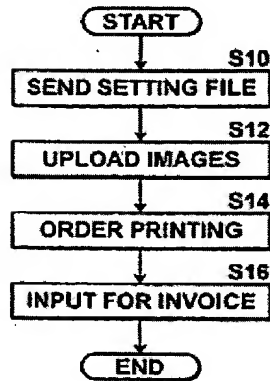
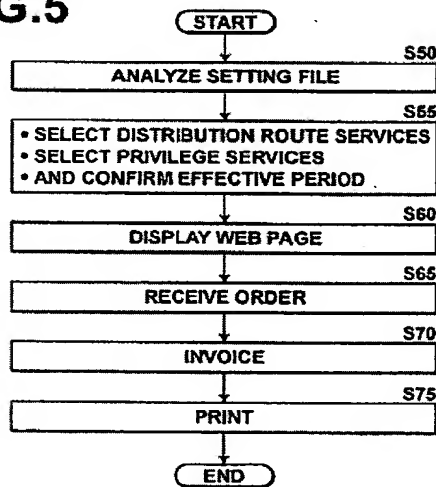


FIG. 5 of Tanaka

FIG.5



Tanaka describes that the personal computer 10 initially sends the setting file (A) (step S10) to the print server (100), where the setting file (A) defines the services that are available to the client and an expiration date for the services. The personal computer (10) then separately uploads the images (step S12) to the print server (100). *The print server (100) analyzes the setting file (step S50) and, based on the settings in the setting file, prints the uploaded images (step S75) and generates an invoice for the printing (S70).* Accordingly, the image file is a print file because it is configured by the personal computer (10) for

printing (step S75) by the print server (100), while the *setting file (A) is not a print file because it is not configured to be printed and, indeed, it is not printed by the print server (100).*

In sharp contrast to Claim 6, Tanaka analyzes the contents of the setting file, not the contents of the separate image file which is to be printed. Nowhere does Tanaka describe or suggest *that the contents of the image file are evaluated or, much less, that the contents of the image file are evaluated based on a routing policy.*

Moreover, Tanaka does not describe or suggest *that the image file is selectively routed to a non-printer device instead of being printed by the print server (100) in response to evaluation of the content of the image file based on a routing policy.*

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 6 is patentable over Tanaka because Tanaka does not describe or suggest evaluating content of at least one print file based on a routing policy, and it does not describe or suggest selectively routing the print file, based on the evaluated content of the print file, to a non-printer device instead of to a printer device.

Independent Claim 16 is a computer program product claim that includes recitations that correspond to those of Claim 6 and, consequently, is submitted to be patentable over Tanaka for at least the reasons explained with regard to Claim 6.

Dependent Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, and 17-20 are patentable at least per the patentability of the independent claims from which they depend. Moreover, these claims are submitted to provide independent basis for patentability.

Dependent Claims 7 and 17 are Independently Patentable Over Tanaka

Dependent Claims 7 and 17 recite that the print file is selectively posted on a WEB page, instead of being routed to a printer device for printing, based on evaluation of the print file and a routing policy.

As explained above, Tanaka describes that the image files uploaded to the print server (100) are printed (step S75 in FIG. 5). The Office Action refers to paragraph 44 of Tanaka which describes *that the setting file is analyzed (step S50, FIG. 5) to obtain information from the setting file* that can be displayed on a WEB page (S60, FIG. 5) so as to query a client for

instructions on how to print the uploaded image file (See Tanaka, FIG. 7). Tanaka does not describe that the print file itself can be selectively posted on a WEB page.

Neither the cited paragraph of Tanaka nor elsewhere does Tanaka describe or suggest that the print file is selectively routed to a non-printer device instead of to a printer device based on evaluation of the print file and a routing policy. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Claims 7 and 17 are independently patentable over Tanaka.

Dependent Claims 9 and 19 are Independently Patentable Over Tanaka in view of Berard

Dependent Claims 9 and 19 recite that information from the print file is selectively imported into a spreadsheet application, a word processor, and/or a database application instead of being routed to a printer device *based on evaluation of the content of the print file and a routing policy*.

In rejecting Claims 9 and 19, the Office Action contends on page 7 that “Berard discloses sending information from the print file to a database application (See Berard, Column 8, lines 31-35).” However, the cited portion of Berard recites the following:

(e) if the extracted data identifies the intended recipient for the document, then: (i) sending a query to a database containing destination information associated with a pre-defined set of recipients, the query identifying the recipient and requesting as a response a destination associated with the intended recipient, and (ii) upon receiving a response to the query, sending the document by electronic transmission to that destination.

Applicant submits that neither the above-cited portion nor elsewhere does Berard describe or suggest that a print file is selectively imported into a spreadsheet application, a word processor, and/or a database application instead of being routed to a printer device based on evaluation of the content of the print file and a routing policy.

Because many recitations of Claims 9 and 19 are not described or suggested by the combination of Tanaka and Berard, Applicant submits that Claims 9 and 19 are independently patentable over Tanaka in view of Berard.

Independent Claim 21 is Patentable Over Berard in view of Tanaka and Madison

Claim 21 recites:

21. A method of routing print files in a computer system, the method comprising:
searching content of a print file to identify one or more keywords that are defined by a routing policy, wherein the print file is configured by an application for printing on a printer device; and
selectively renaming the print file based on identifying the one or more keywords in the print file instead of routing the print file to a printing device.

Accordingly, Claim 21 recites that the print file is configured by an application for printing on a printing device, and that the print file is selectively renamed based on identifying one or more keywords in the print file that are defined by a routing policy instead of routing the print file to a printing device.

In rejecting the subject matter of Claim 21, the Office Action contends on page 8 that “Tanaka discloses searching the content of a file to identify keywords defining a routing policy for the file.” However, as explained above, Tanaka analyzes the contents of a setting file, not the contents of a separate image file that is to be printed.

The Office Action also contends on page 8 that “Madison discloses renaming a file based upon the data within the file, such as XML data indicating a successful or unsuccessful file upload, and a routing policy, such as the value of the XML data updated according to the result of the upload attempt.” Applicant acknowledges that Madison discloses that a file is selectively renamed based on whether it was successfully upload. However, nowhere does Madison appear to disclose that the content of the uploaded file is examined or, much less, that the content of a file is searched to identify one or more keywords that are defined by a routing policy, or that the file is selectively renamed based on identifying one or more keywords via the file search.

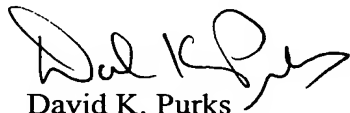
For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 21 is patentable over Berard in view of Tanaka and Madison.

In re: Harry Michael Schell
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CONCLUSION

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims for at least the reasons discussed above. Applicant further submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,




David K. Purks
Registration No. 40,133
Attorney for Applicant(s)

USPTO Customer No. 39072
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P. O. Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

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Audra Wooten